TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

BELARUS

(Respublica Byelarus)

Telšiai
Pakruojis
LATVIA
Idritsa
PSKOV
Olenino
Panevėžys
Subate
Daugavpils
TVER'
Nevel'
Gagarin
Šilalė
Utena
Druya
Navapolatsk
Velizh
LITHUANIA
Vyaz'ma
Nida
Tauragė
Vidzy
Luzhki
Vitsyebsk
Neman
Molėtai
Kaunas
Lyepyel'
Smolensk
Gusev
Trakai
Vilnius
Rudnya
Vskhody
Marijampolė
Šalčininkai
Orša
RUSSIA
Alytus
SMOLENSK
Druskininkai
Valozh
Horki
Piecki
Ełk
Lida
Minsk
Mahilyow
Chausy
Roslavl'
Hrodna
Krychaw
Dyat'kovo
Kolno
Białystok
Baranavičy
Babruysk
Kostyukovichi
Zambrów
Slonim
Salihorsk
Glusk
Zhlobin
Klintsy
Bug
Sokołów Podlaski
Svetlogorsk
Liw
Homel'
BRYANSK
BELARUS
Siedlce
Rechytsa
Suzemka
Pinsk
Łuków
Luninyets
Mazyr'
Shostka
Brest
Shchors
POLAND
Khoyniki
Chernihiv
UKRAINE
Lublin
Sarny
Ovruch
Borzna
SUMS'KA
Kovel'
KYYV
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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Belarus

Capital: Minsk

Population: 10,401,784 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Sergy Ling

Official language(s) Byelorussian, Russi

Economy: Socialist

Religions: Eastern Orthodox (80%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Minsk

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: Starovilenskaya 46, Minsk
Tel: 375-172-10-1283; FAX: 375-172-34-7853

Transportation: Public transportation: Fair. Taxi service is pron
greatly, and the automobiles themselves are often in poor cond
trolleys are poorly maintained, unheated, not air conditioned a

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. The roads in Belarus range from short stretches of highways where cars and trucks can exceed speeds of 120 km/h to dirt roads where 40

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passport, visa, ID card, leave orders, and a copy of message authorizing Country clearance. Civilian personnel (including dependents) require passports and visas. Travelers who do not have a visa prior to arriving in Belarus cannot register at hotels. US citizens residing in Belarus are required to register with the local Office of Visas and Registration (OVIR). Failure to do so can result in fines and visits from local militia. US Citizens residing at hotels are automatically registered at check-in. Visa validity dates are strictly enforced. DoD personnel must obtain Country clearance from USDAO Minsk, including those traveling on group tours. In addition US Military personnel require approval from US Military

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. Belarus' customs laws and regulations are complicated and enforcement is highly arbitrary.

Duty-free entry for used personal effects.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Taking photographs of anything that could be perceived as being of military or security interest may result in problems with authorities

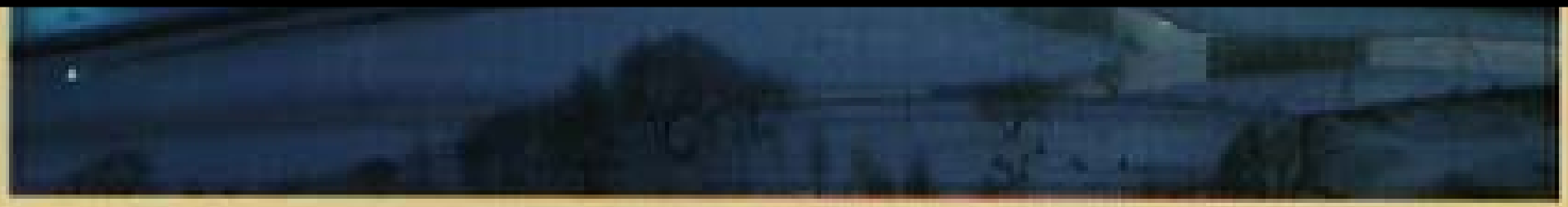
Economic and political reform in Belarus has stalled under the current government. Tourist facilities are not highly developed, and many of the goods and services taken for granted in other countries are not yet available.

Internal travel, especially by air, may be disrupted by fuel shortages and other problems. Visible and hidden dangers are profuse, including large potholes, the absence of road signs, and lack of service areas. Other hazards include unlit or poorly lit streets, inattentive and dark-clothed pedestrians walking on unlit roads, drivers under the influence of alcohol, and a common disregard for traffic rules. Driving in winter is especially dangerous because many roads are not properly

Amembassy operating hours are 0830-1715L Mon-Fri. Amembassy observes US and local holidays.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Currency Regulations. Travelers checks are not widely accepted in Belarus. Most Intourist hotels accept either American Express or Visa credit cards. In addition, one hotel in Minsk, the Planeta, provides cash from Visa credit cards during normal business hours. Outside the hotels, Belarus remains a cash-only economy. It is important to declare all currency and valuable items upon entry to the country. Travelers should ensure that they keep a copy of the customs declaration for presentation at departure. All cash payments are to be made in local currency, the Belarusian ruble. Travelers face arrest if they attempt to buy items with currency other than Belarusian rubles. Exchange currency only at the airport and authorized banks and stores.
Rate: Approximate: Uses Russian Roubles.



HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Poor. Medical care in Belarus is limited. There is a severe shortage of basic medical supplies, including vaccines, anesthetics, and antibiotics.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Belarus.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: None.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Belarus. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels. Travelers should request sufficient time to allow for delays in arrival and departure. Individuals are required to obtain valid Belarusian visas prior to traveling to Belarus. Local authorities are known to detain individuals at the airport who enter the country without visas and send them

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Street demonstrations and other disturbances related to outstanding disputes may occur without warning. Bystanders face the possibility of arrest and detention. Levels of background radiation and radiation found in food items affected by the fallout from the 1986 Chernobyl accident have decreased significantly with time. They are no longer of any known medical significance to travelers. Tap-water samples show no detectable radiation. Security personnel may at times

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Belarus has a medium rate of crime, and common street crime continues to increase, especially at night and in or near hotels frequented by foreigners. Foreigners, and particularly foreign cars, tend to be targets of crime. Travelers should keep a copy of their passport in a separate location from their original. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

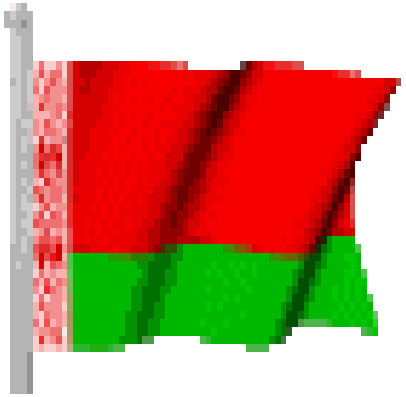
Belarus is strict on: Firearms are prohibited in flight and at airport.

WEATHER

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Uniforms of any type, including flight clothing, are prohibited. Clothes for US temperate zone are suitable.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



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